REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on May 27, 2004 has been reviewed and the comments of the Patent and Trademark Office have been considered. Prior to this paper, claims 7-9 were pending. By this paper, Applicant adds claims 10-23. Therefore, claims 7-23 are now pending.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance for the reasons that follow.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kuino (Japanese Patent Application Publication No. JP-53015502). In response, Applicants traverse the rejection and respectfully submit that the above claims are allowable for at least the reasons that follow.

Applicants rely on MPEP § 2131, entitled "Anticipation – Application of 35 U.S.C. 102(a), (b), and (e)," which states that a "claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." It is respectfully submitted that Kuino does not describe each and every element of any of claims 7-9.

Claim 7: Claim 7 recites a method of manufacturing an electric rotating machine, comprising joining plural plates to a first fixing member, and "finishing inner and outer circumferential surfaces of the plural plates ***in a state where the plural plates are joined only to the first fixing member.***" (Emphasis added.) An exemplary embodiment of the invention of claim 7 is described on pages 3-5 of the specification with reference to Figs. 1-4. As is described therein, a plurality of plates are joined to a first fixing member (flange 5) by a connecting member (bolt 9). The "joined" plurality of plates, which has inner and outer circumferential surfaces (*see* Fig. 3, inner cylindrical surface and outer cylindrical surface of the joined plates of core 2) is then finished by grinding with a grindstone 101 (*see* Fig. 3) while the joined plurality of plates is rotated by the rotating portion of the grinding

machine 100. The plural plates are joined ***only*** to the first fixing member (flange 5) during this finishing (grinding) operation, as may readily be seen in Fig. 3.

In contrast, Kueno does not teach finishing inner and outer circumferential surfaces of plural plates in a state where the plural plates are joined ***only*** to a first fixing member. Indeed, Kueno does not even teach that the alleged inner and outer circumferential surfaces of the alleged plates of element 1 are finished. In fact, based on the very small diameter of the alleged inner circumference of element 1 depicted in the figures of Kueno, it is likely that Kueno does not finish the alleged inner circumference.

Moreover, since element 13 (identified in the Office Action as the connecting member that joins the plural plates to the alleged first fixing member) appears to be an interference fit or at least a slip fit with the alleged inner circumferential surfaces of the plural plates, it is does not appear possible that the alleged inner circumferential surfaces of the plural plates may be finished in a state where the plural plates are joined to the alleged first fixing member. This is because there is no room to place a finishing tool between element 13 and the alleged inner circumference of the plural plates.

Also, as noted above, claim 7 recites "joining the plural plates to a first fixing member by a connecting member." In an exemplary embodiment of the invention of claim 7, the first fixing member is a flange 5 and the connecting member is a bolt 9, as is shown in Fig. 3. The Office Action alleges that element 2 of Kueno is a fixing member. However, to the contrary, element 2 of Kueno is an armature coil. Thus, Kueno fails to teach yet another requirement of claim 7. In sum, claim 7 is not anticipated by Kueno.

Claim 8: Claim 8 is allowable for at least the reason that it depends from claim 7, an allowable claim.

Claim 9: Claim 9 recites that the connecting member is a bolt and that "the plural plates are joined to the first fixing member by passing the bolt through the hole." In the Office Action, element 13 is identified as meeting the requirement of a connecting member, and thus, presumably, the requirement of a bolt vis-à-vis claim 9. However, element 13 is not used to join the alleged plural plates to the alleged first fixing member (element 2). No

attaching mechanism is shown in the figures of Kueno to attach element 13 to element 2. Thus, the features of claim 9 are not present in Kueno, and claim 9 is allowable for this reason in addition to its dependency from claim 7.

New Claims

As seen above, Applicant has added new claims 10-23. These claims are allowable for at least the reason that they depend from claim 7, an allowable claim.

Support for new claims 10-23 may be found, among other places, in pages 3-6 of the specification.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Examiner Lam is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By _____

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